

Minutes – December 17, 2012
Ad Hoc Home Rule Study Committee

The Ad Hoc Home Rule Study Committee held a meeting in Conference Room C of the Municipal Building beginning at 7:00 p.m. Members present included: Bill Matthews, Geoff Hurd, Kevin Kearns, Mary Larsen, and Bradley Kitlowski, Nancy Carroll, and Chris Cahillane. Municipal Manager Steve Feller, Solicitor Phil Weis, and Assistant Manager Marcia Taylor also attended the meeting.

There were no citizens present to provide citizen comments.

Ms. Larsen moved, and Mr. Kearns seconded to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2012 meeting. The motion passed 6 to 0 with Mr. Cahillane abstaining.

The Committee began by reviewing open items. They reviewed a “List of Select Charter Provisions to be Further Reviewed on 12-17-12.” Solicitor Weis agreed to maintain the list of possible changes to the Charter, and work on possible ballot language to be proposed.

During the discussion of the elected Treasurer position, Solicitor Weis distributed relevant provisions from Charters in Easton, Erie County, Northampton County, and Upper St. Clair Township.

Geoff Hurd reviewed an approach to selling a comprehensive package to the voters dealing with tax reform issues that would involve making changes to the cap on property tax, earned income tax, and limits to other taxes imposed by the first class township code.

During the discussion on the two mill limitation in the current Charter, Ms. Taylor distributed a schedule showing the projected 2013 assessment and how the revenue compares with various limitation options, including: 1) 2 mill limit 2) 1 mill limit 3) ½ mill limit 3) 5% increase in RET 6) 10% increase in RET 7) 2.5% increase in GF budget and 8) 5% increase in GF budget.

The Committee agreed that the next meetings would be held on January 9 and February 6, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm